

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)



Steve Treadway entered into a 30 year WRP easement on 147 acres in 1997. He was attracted to WRP as a way to keep the land in agriculture while not having to continue to use it as farm ground. WRP allowed him to provide wildlife habitat and an opportunity for kids and senior citizens to enjoy it.

The Program

The **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** is a voluntary land-retirement program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands.

The Partnership

The program provides landowners and Tribes an opportunity to receive financial incentives to restore and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring this land from agriculture.

Landowners and Tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to restore and protect wetlands.

The Assistance

Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership. WRP offers landowners three enrollment options:

- (1) Permanent Easement
- (2) 30-year Easement
- (3) Restoration Cost-Share Agreement

In FY 2003 Colorado purchased...

...Ten perpetual easements,
...Seven 30-year easements
totalling \$2,971,115 covering 2620 acres.

Another three applications worth \$1,524,000 are on the waiting list for funding.

As a national agency, NRCS has primary administrative responsibility and authority to develop cooperative agreements with outside conservation groups who can assist with creating or restoring wetlands. NRCS can also delegate its authority of monitoring the enforcement easements to states or other Federal agencies.

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